THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of newspapers on the live register of the Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 31-12-1987 was 23, 616.

(b) The number of newspapers taking newsprint varies from year to year. As many as 2, 613 newspapers received newsprint during 1986-87. 2, 834 newspapers/journals were issued advertisements during the year 1986-87.

(c) Newsprint is allocated to the newspapers as Per the Newsprint Allocaiion Policy announced by Government from time to time. The current Newsprint Allocation Policy was announced on 13-11-86 and a cop$_v$ of the same was laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on 17-11-86. AH those newspapers journals which apjjly for Government advertisements and fulfil the norms prescribed by the Government and accept the rates offered are empanelled for release of Government advertisements.

Vegetable scandal In Super Bazer

3735. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVII, SUPPLIES b$_e$ pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2079 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1987 and state;

(a) what are the names and designations of officials of the Super Bazar Involved In the vegetable scandal;

(b) the details of action taken against ihem; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE iMINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT)-: (a) to (c) The Super Bazer has reported that the name of the officer involved in the scandal is Shri Laxman SIngk who was then Senior supervise! Fruits and Vegetable Department H has since been transferred from tha Department and disciplinary action i being initiated against him.

3736. *[Transferred to the* 10th *December,* 1987]

Harmful use of chemical fertilisers

3737. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH.. Will the Minister of AGRI CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of chemi cal fertilisers is proving counter-pro ductive, and if so, what are the details thereof and corrwftafc steps taken or proposed *to* be taken this regard;

(b) whether Governm propose *to* encourage the use of bio-organic ferti lisers and bio-fertilisers; anand c) whether genetic bio-fertilisers are already in us$_e$ in USA/USSR $_e$tc. if so, what are the reasons for alow progress made by India in the matterT

THE MINISTER OF STATE H THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THI MINISTRY oF AGRICULTUHJ (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWAHAI

(a) The present level of fertiliser *cot* sumption In the country 1B an uiHi sive.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Bio-fertilisers are sofl and crop specific biological sources of nitrogen fixation and do not hav, advent] ay-plication. As in USA and USSR, India also has made progress in the development of efficient strains of Rhizobium and Blue Green Algae culture*. To promote use of biofertilisers among farmers, a national project on the development and use of bio-fertilise' has been sanctioned.